



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JULY 2012 VOLUME 3 ISSUE 7

\$1

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THE NAMES OF THE
PEOPLE ON THE WALLS
MURAL ARE:

① WOODY ALLEN

② EDGAR ALLAN POE

③ HERMAN HESSE

④ FRANZ KAFKA

⑤ ANIAS NIN

THE MURALS ARTIST IS:
RICHARD VOLK circa 1984

HOMELESS
IN MY 60'S

CLEAN & SOBER
SINCE 8-11-10

SHARE
CHANGE?

FOR
GIFT CARD?

Food?



THANK
YOU
AND
GOD BLESS
ALL!

GOD IS GOOD
ALL THE TIME

OR AT LEAST A

SMILE?

HAVE A GOOD DAY!

Every child deserves a fifth birthday



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

A friend of mine who gives generously of her time and money to local efforts to feed and house those in need recently suggested that, with so much suffering here in the States, we should concentrate our resources on meeting that need and leave the rest of the world to fend for itself for a while. That is a popular sentiment and certainly has some validity.

I just can't get past abandoning 21,000 children to die every day from preventable causes. I feel badly if a child I know personally doesn't have a celebration to mark their fifth birthday; the mothers of one out of eight children in Africa watch their children die before they reach five years of age.

We know how to stop these deaths. Despite a tripling in population, effective interventions over the last 30 years lowered that number from 36,000. In the process, smallpox was eliminated and polio was reduced by 99 percent, with no cases reported in India last year where it used to run rampant.

A vaccine for viral meningitis was introduced in sub-Saharan Africa in 2010 and infection rates plummeted 99 percent, with only four cases since. Maternal and neo-natal tetanus have been eliminated in 20 countries, and UNICEF is partnering with Kiwanis International to complete the job.

Global efforts to combat malaria have had marked effects on child survival where malaria is endemic. Nets and indoor spraying have reduced childhood malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa by as much as 50 percent. Because malaria accounts for so many hospital visits and admissions – 30 to 40 percent of children under

five in most African countries – effective malaria control means beds and resources are freed up to treat other children.

According to UNICEF director Carol Stern, the four keys to eliminating the remaining unnecessary child deaths are:

- New vaccines and drugs to fight HIV
- Technical innovations to bring down the cost of service
- Getting health workers into remote areas
- Girls' education (linked to half of all such progress made)

Health kiosks explaining the importance of using a clean knife to cut the baby's umbilical cord are saving lives in Uganda. Mobile phone applications across sub-Saharan Africa enable community health workers to maintain patient records, monitor pregnancies and infant health remotely,

and register the children and issue birth certificates which will enable the child to receive future medical services. The mother's capacity to read is critical in these partnerships.

So much can be done with relatively little financial investment. Global leaders gathered for the Child Survival Call to Action meeting in Washington on June 14, with the bold agenda of ending preventable child deaths. They acknowledged that we've cut child preventable deaths in half over the past 30 years. Still, there are 7.6 million children every year who don't reach their fifth birthday, and too many parents suffer, particularly when we have tools to prevent these deaths.

It's not just the vastness of the number; it's the vastness of the loss.

We have a roadmap for ending preventable child deaths in our lifetime. Whether it leads through the U.S., Mexico, or Zambia, how can we not follow it?

July Calendar of Events

July 1 – Food Gatherers Benefit Concert, 4-6 p.m. Dr. Marijim Thoene, organist. Internationally acclaimed artist will play works by Bach, Alain, Dupré, and others. Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. 4th Ave, Ann Arbor, 48104. More info: (734) 665-6149.

July 9 - 26 – Community Art Show “Dream Seeding for the New Era of Love,” 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Features creative work of any genre calling each of us to remember that a compassionate future is possible. UM Union Building, 1st Floor, 530 S. State St., Ann Arbor. More info: (734) 763-5786.

July 10 – “Mity Buskers Festival” at Ann Arbor Artisan's Market, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Celebrate the street performers, or “buskers,” of Ann Arbor. Music, improv artists, and more. 315 Detroit St., Ann Arbor. More info: (734) 913-9622 or www.artisanmarket.org.

July 10 – Understanding Race Project Community Meeting: “Racial Justice Community Scan/Mapping,” 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Interactive discussion and workshop by Shari Robinson-Lynk on “How Society ‘PLAYS’ Race.” UM Museum of Natural History, 1109 Geddes Ave., Ann Arbor. Check www.UnderstandingRaceProject.org for locations and other announcements.

RSVP to UnderstandingRaceProjectRSVP@umich.edu.

July 14 – Buy Local and Meet the Local Producers Event, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Meet local entrepreneur vendors and learn their stories. Taste the delicious products they produce locally. Whole Foods Market, 3135 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor. More info: (734) 975-4500.

July 14 – Imagine a Park Block Party, 12-5 p.m. Help envision *Library Green*, a park on the library lot proposed to replace planned surface parking lot. Bring picnic lunch or buy from local vendors. Library Lot next to Downtown Ann Arbor Public Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor. More info: www.A2CentralPark.org.

July 15 – Avalon Housing Community Celebration, 1-5 p.m. Join Avalon tenants and friends to celebrate Avalon's 20th Anniversary. Tenant art show, live music, food games, and crafts for children. West Park, N. 7th St. between Miller and Huron. More info: (734) 663-5858.

July 15 – 4th Annual Ann Arbor ReSkilling Festival, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Learn skills for resilient, low-energy living – from canning to meditation to quilting and starting a garden. Rudolf Steiner High School, 2230 Pontiac Trail, Ann Arbor. To pre-register (\$29/

person) or for more info, call (734) 846-8024 or visit a2reskilling.com.

July 18 - 21 – Ann Arbor Art Fair, W-F 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sa 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Enjoy the works of over a thousand artists, meet representatives of local nonprofit organizations. Downtown Ann Arbor; nonprofit booths on Liberty. More info: www.TheAnnArborArtFair.com.

July 21 – Engage.Liberate.Heal: Social Justice Art Fair, 12-5 p.m. Celebrate the vibrant connection between Art and Social Work. Art displays, live performances, interactive art events. UM School of Social Work Building / McGregor Commons, 1080 S. University, Ann Arbor. More info: cortezpc@umich.edu.

July 24 – Take a Chance Tuesday @ The Ark, 8-10 p.m. Live and free music with a non-perishable food donation for Food Gatherers. More info: theark.org.

July 27 - August 1 – 26th Annual Buddhist Peace Camp. Children, parents and other adults gather to promote a spirit of peace, cooperation, mindfulness, and FUN! Friend's Lake, 1000 Long Lake Rd, Chelsea. To attend or volunteer as a counselor, call (734) 761-6520 or email annarbor@zenbuddhisttemple.org.

Forget the box



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell
Pastor, Bethlehem United Church of Christ

I love state parks. I have a special fondness for ones located off the beaten track, those treasures not so well-discovered by the crowds. I visited one such park recently. With several dear friends from Illinois, I went to White Pines State Park in the Rock River Valley of Northwest Illinois. We were searching for a good lunch site and some beautiful hiking. We were not disappointed. This park features buildings crafted by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, including cabins and a central lodge. I have eaten, stayed, and rested in CCC structures since I was a child. They are places of home for me.

After a delicious meal, we set out to hike. This small but beautiful forest is a remnant of one of the southernmost stands of native white pine in the United States. It was once home territory for the Black Hawk nation. There is considerable history there. In the opening years of the 20th century, a grassroots conservation group of concerned citizens forged early efforts to preserve the pines. Few people were considering such action then. Twenty years later, in the 1920s, they were successful.

After an excellent meal and restorative time in the woods, I received one more gift on this visit. The park tee shirts have an average sort of design and an amazing tagline. The tagline reads: “Forget the box. Think Outside!” How many times have you heard or used the phrase, “Think outside the box!”? It is a commonly stated, almost stale invitation to creativity. However, in

a tiny park of beautiful trees on the breadth of the prairie, this invitation takes flight anew when we forget the box.

At White Pines State Park, thinking outside involves the outdoors. In our lives, thinking outside can move us to places where we don't have the safety of looking back in the direction of a box to which we might be tempted to return. “Forget the box. Think Outside!” sends our hearts, our spirits, and our imaginations into the realm of improvisation and the not-yet. It is a realm where, together, we try the un-tried and risk the vulnerability of setting out what is most important to us where others can encounter it.

Improvisation is both thrilling and terrifying. It has no guarantees. However, within it resides an incredible possibility of utterly fresh understanding and effort. In their own

time, the early 20th-century neighbors of a few hundred acres of white pine left the boxes of their day behind when they improvised repeated strategies across two decades to save the pines.

Over the long haul, Groundcover News must continue to go way beyond thinking outside the box to thinking where the box is no more. When I ponder where it is in my life that the box has been forgotten, Groundcover News is one of the first examples to flash in my mind. Thinking outside, in a zone without benefit of a box, is an opportunity for each and every one of us. How about you? Can you forget the box as you dream and contribute to the forward reach of Groundcover News? I hope so.

Greetings box-less ones,
Martha



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

(between William and Packard)

www.bethlehem-ucc.org (734) 665-6149

Bethlehem Church is home for the Groundcover Office

Sundays:

8:30 am and 10:00 am ~ Worship

10:00 am ~ Church School

Upcoming Events:

July 18 to July 21

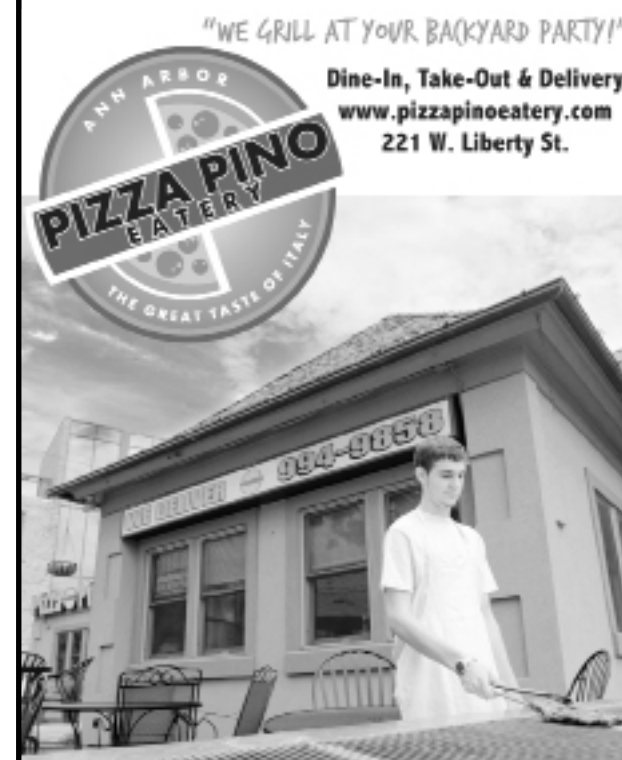
Ann Arbor Art Fair

Church youth will be parking cars in our lot during the Ann Arbor Art Fair. If you are planning to come downtown, please park here and help support our youth activities.

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Camp Take Notice given notice



by Carolyn Lusch
Groundcover
Contributor

The weeks leading up to June 22 were a busy time for the residents of Camp Take Notice and for the members of MISSION, the nonprofit organization that supports CTN. Having learned on May 29 that CTN residents would be evicted from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) land on which the camp had existed for two years, both campers and organizers began preparing for their response and their individual futures.

One of the camp's founders, Caleb Poirer, compared their situation to a bus going up a hill that had run out of gas. "We can effect a change if we're in pushing mode," he said. He was one of many to encourage the group at the all-camp meeting on Sunday, June 17. Although the campers met every week to discuss and vote on camp matters, this last meeting before eviction day was especially tense. It was also unusually well-attended, with not only campers but also members of the media and representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) looking on.

Where to go

Some campers, like Jackie, who has lived in CTN for a year, were prepared for acts of civil disobedience. "Lock me up, take me away," she declared when asked about her plans for Friday.

Most of the campers, however, were preoccupied with the search for housing or new camping sites. On May 29, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)



Residents and supporters of Camp Take Notice meet to discuss a possible response to their impending eviction by Michigan Department of Transportation.

and Michigan Campaign To End Homelessness announced that they would work in partnership with state and local authorities to provide housing to the residents of Camp Take Notice. Funds were made available for 40 year-long housing subsidies, a figure based on the number of campers staying at CTN when the eviction notice was issued. However, the previous week boasted a CTN population of 68, and as of this story's publication only 33 campers have been offered a housing subsidy – with others having been denied subsidies based on reasons such as veteran status, income, and immigrant status. Those individuals offered subsidies have a temporary place to stay at the Delonis Center from June 21 until they find housing with the help of case workers.

For campers without subsidies, the immediate future is uncertain. Some,

like Sharon Bridgewater, plan on staying with family members. Others don't have that option. "I really don't know," responded camper Herberto when questioned about his plans. "I don't have any family in this country." Herberto, a U.S. citizen and native of Puerto Rico, said that he was denied a housing subsidy because he found a part-time job three weeks before. "I still think it's not fair. I'm willing to pay a percentage."

Some campers have begun searching for new sites to set up camp. A member of Webster United Church of Christ in Dexter volunteered to arrange rides for the relocating campers, some to clandestine locations. Campers traded leads and advice, weighing the risks of being found on private property by the police. One exclaimed, "If we get arrested, what do we do?"

Why CTN?

The uniqueness of the MDOT property that CTN has called its home since May 2010 is a large part of why CTN residents want to stay, according to Poirer. It is also close to a bus stop, which is critical for allowing campers to access resources and search for jobs, and is not directly adjacent to a residential neighborhood or a business district. The camp has been located at five other sites around the Ann Arbor area, but has always been evicted within a year or two. Because the current land is owned by MDOT, the Ann Arbor Police do not have authority; instead, the camp has been in dialogue with MDOT officials and the Michigan State Police.

Those entering the camp step over a guardrail, walk down a mulched path into a wooded area, and after a short distance begin to see clusters of tents among the pine trees. The rumblings of the freeway recede, replaced by muted conversations and bird songs. David, one of the campers, said that he appreciated how beautiful and removed the spot was, and would sometimes sit and meditate. Many of the other campers expressed attachment to the current campsite. "I would rather stay here than get housing," stated one camper. Another camper, Dule, agreed. "I wish they wouldn't close this place," he said, looking around the camp while giving a tour to visitors. "Isn't it nice out here?"

For many, community support was a fundamental element of Camp Take Notice that would not be easily recreated elsewhere. David described CTN as a place where people "can come and feel safe, get their life back together." Sharon expressed similar feelings. "I feel really safe down here," she said. The governing structure of

see CAMP, page 10

Panhandlers: taking it to the streets and what I learned



by Jeanne Adwani
Groundcover
Contributor

On June 12, AnnArbor.com ran an article regarding the Ann Arbor task force campaign message: Don't give money directly to downtown's panhandlers.

"You don't want your money to support a drug or alcohol habit," read one poster among several distributed by the task force to downtown businesses in June.

The article further states that the "campaign is an outcome of the Mayor's Street Outreach Task Force, which reconvened in late 2010 to look at aggressive panhandling and other issues facing the downtown area. The task force's 42-page report recommended that the Mayor's Downtown Marketing Task Force expand their role to include working with residents, merchants, service providers and the City to improve the safety and cleanliness of the downtown area.

I took to the streets to speak directly with local Ann Arborites who frequent the downtown area and get feedback on this issue. I asked these kinds of questions: What do you think of panhandling? Do think panhandlers are mostly drug addicts and alcoholics? Are you aware of the Mayor's task force regarding this issue? Do you care that you are asked for money on the street? Do you give money to panhandlers? Have you ever panhandled? What would bring you to feeling you had to panhandle?

I also took note of the comments on AnnArbor.com for further information.

What I learned is that people have mixed feelings about giving to



Summertime in Ann Arbor sees an increase in the number of often colorful characters who line the sidewalks and hit up pedestrians for spare change.

panhandlers. Those I spoke with directly, save for one, said they gave if it "felt" right. They let their intuition be their guide as they assessed the moment and the person asking. If they felt drugs and alcohol might be bought with their giving, most said "Sorry, no." Once they gave of their money, they decided to let go of what they'd hoped the money might be used for.

"I hope they get something they can really use. I don't even imagine them buying drugs or alcohol, I imagine them getting their life together," said one woman named Lissa. Another person didn't care whether they would buy booze or drugs; they gave because they knew they were down on their luck for whatever reason and felt that was enough reason to give them money.

Some people felt there was a difference between the panhandling of some homeless who seem to use it as a profession, and others who just appeared out of nowhere asking for a bit for food, or a bus ride. Again, people felt that they could judge in that moment whether to give or not.

One woman said she was afraid that a negative response would result in negative behavior, so she gave from fear as opposed to giving because she felt like it. She hoped they just would stop asking her.

Though people did feel panhandlers were often motivated by alcohol and drugs, most of them felt that mental illness was at the core of this behavior and that made them feel more tolerant and willing to help. A fellow named Bob said he knew there were agencies around to help the homeless and that giving money to them might be of some help. "And," he said, "our government should help to take care of some of these people. It's hard for them to access these agencies when they are in a mental state of disrepair. I give money to those in need if it feels right for me to give."

The online responses were more varied. One person said they could "all rot" as far as he was concerned. Another said, "Better hope Jesus doesn't come to Ann Arbor when he returns. He'd be giving to the homeless and not complying with this campaign." Yet another comment

read, "Just stop giving them money and they will go away – to Ypsilanti. That is what Ann Arbor wants: [for] them to just get out of [our] sight."

People's feelings on the issue ranged from making it illegal and clear condemnation, to giving when it felt right, but edged more toward compassion over contempt. Everyone wanted fewer panhandlers, either because they bemoaned the desperate need that drove people to begging for money, or simply to get them off the streets so they don't have to look at them anymore.

The issue of dignity came up. Somewhere along the journey of homelessness and loss comes the loss of dignity. Everyone I spoke to agreed that dignity was an issue and that the only way to regain it was to feel good about oneself and find purpose. The question hanging in the air for me was: What promotes feeling good and having purpose when you're homeless, in trouble, maybe suffering with addictions, maybe suffering with mental illness and you have no safe place?

For me, I will always want the choice to give if I want. To say no if that's what I need to say; to discern the moment and make a choice. And if I can support someone to bring a little dignity back into his or her life, then that is a good and kind mission. I think it is very difficult to officially gather all the resources needed to assist the vast number of people that fall through the cracks of life and end up homeless and struggling.

Questions I leave you with: What small step might you take to support the dignity of another less fortunate than you? Can you look in the eye of a street person, a homeless person, a panhandler and really "see" them beyond the surface of their struggle or mental illness? Can you be the change you wish to see?

Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2012



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Ann Arbor Democratic Party is sponsoring
Candidate forum: Saturday, July 14,
9:30 am – noon, Ann Arbor Community
Center, 625 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor.
First Annual Strolling Gals: Starring
Michigan Radio commentator Jack
Lessenberry. Friday, July 27, 6 to 9:30 pm in
the Le Pop Art Gallery, 101 North Main Street, Ann Arbor
Tickets: \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door.
Students & senior citizens, \$30.
More information: www.aanarborders.org

Washtenaw's Double Up Food Bucks

by Greg Hoffman
Groundcover Social Work Intern



Local farmers' markets around the state of Michigan and northern Ohio are bringing back the Double Up Food Bucks program for the second consecutive summer. This year's program began on June 1 and is intended to provide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients with a means of incorporating more fresh produce into their daily meals. Nearly 80 farmers' markets in Michigan and northern Ohio are participating in the program this year, which is almost double the number in 2011.

The program is administered by the Fair Food Network, a statewide nonprofit organization that receives funding from both public and private organizations, including the Michigan Department of Human Services, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the C.S. Mott Foundation, and the Ann Arbor Community Foundation.

Throughout the year, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Farmers' Markets allow SNAP recipients to swipe their bridge cards at the Market Offices or designated Bridge Card tents and receive voucher tokens that can be used to purchase food from farmers' market vendors. The Double Up Food Bucks program, which runs throughout the summer and fall with a scheduled end date of November 30, provides additional incentives for SNAP recipients to take advantage of the voucher program because it matches their voucher purchase dollar for dollar, up to \$20 per week. So, a \$20 Bridge Card purchase actually equals \$40

in voucher tokens to purchase fresh, locally-grown fruits and vegetables. The tokens are non-refundable and can only be used for produce at the market.

In addition to the tremendous health benefits participating SNAP recipients can get by boosting their intake of fresh fruits and vegetables, Double Up Food Bucks also provides a boost to local farmers who benefit from the sales. When the program was introduced in Michigan in the summer of 2011, SNAP redemptions at farmers' markets nearly doubled the markets' total profits, which jumped from \$578,518 in 2010 to \$1,076,611 in 2011. Program organizers hope that the success of this program will continue this year.



FARMERS' MARKET HOURS

Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor Farmers' Market (downtown)
315 Detroit Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Wednesday and Saturdays: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. (June – December)
Wednesday evenings: 4:30 – 8:30 p.m. (through September 26)

Westside Farmers' Market (at Jackson and N. Maple)
2501 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Thursday evenings: 3 – 7 p.m. (through September 27)
www.westsidefarmersmarket.com

Ypsilanti

Downtown Ypsilanti Farmers' Market
Ferris Street between Adams and Hamilton, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Tuesdays: 2 – 6 p.m. (through October)
www.growinghope.net/programs/market

Ypsilanti Depot Town Farmers' Market
100 Rice St. (Market Place), Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Saturdays: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. (through October)



Touring NSF International

by Noah Burns
Groundcover Contributor

Editor's Note: Noah is a rising senior at Rudolf Steiner and wrote this piece while doing an end-of-term internship at Groundcover.

It took two tries to blow up the pipe.

The first test, a demonstration I witnessed during a recent tour of public health and safety research nonprofit NSF International's testing laboratories, was disappointingly unsuccessful: the household pipe withstood the water pressures it was subjected to. Despite the potential consequences of exploding water pipes in the real world – like water and structural damage – it was a bit anti-climactic when we were informed that it just wasn't going to blow.

Undaunted, however, the media contingent on-hand for a tour honoring the lab's 65th anniversary witnessed the testing of a second pipe, one far weaker. Happily, we were treated to the promised explosion: first a swelling around the middle that foretold the imminent failure of the pipe, then a moment's pause as it teetered on the edge of chaos. When it finally burst, violently spewing PVC shrapnel in all directions within the protective box, the buildup made it all the more satisfying. A dramatic affair, surely, but have any of us ever imagined that the field of food and water safety regulation was anything but?

At NSF's world headquarters in Ann Arbor, scientists from a number of diverse fields test products against consumer safety standards that the organization develops. NSF was started in 1944, centered on commercial food equipment. According to Director of Corporate Communications Anne Schmitt Reichert, this was a reaction to the dearth of regulation in the restaurant industry. Today, over 65 years later, the company has extended its range of third-party testing activities to include such divergent fields as blender quality and pool drain intake safety.

Take the latter, for example. "One of the first things a kid will do is go down and play by the [pool] drain," said Kevin Schaefer, an engineer at NSF, explaining why their research is important. If the suction created by the drain is too strong, a child can become entrapped and drown. The job of NSF is to test a product against the legal standards, in this case those of the Virginia Graham Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, and any other standards agreed upon by industry executives. If the product passes inspection, it attains NSF certification; if not, it will either be refitted or go without certification.

To test the pool drain in question, a

pool with said drain is set up. The drain is activated, and a test dummy head with long blonde hair is put into the pool, which either will be sucked into the drain or will remain free, depending on the efficacy of the product. I witnessed a demonstration of this test at the tour, and couldn't help but feel a little bit bad for the fake head.

NSF also conducts a diverse array of testing in fields such as chemistry and microbiology. The dauntingly-titled "gas chromatography" (the lab for which tests for harmful substances like dioxin), and the downright frightening-sounding "liquid chromatography: mass spectrometry" (which tests banned athletic substances), are examples of the complicated work done here. They also famously used the high tech toy-testing technology, the "SRF spectrometer," to test lead concentrations in toys.

The tour concluded with a presentation in the biology lab featuring a demonstration of the rigorous scientific protocol involved in testing a dietary supplement, followed by a stop in the drinking water systems lab where filtering water bottles were being tested by robotic hands designed to squeeze the bottles at various pressures, checking to see whether the filters worked at all rates of water flow.

What wasn't featured in the tour (though outlined in the supplemental materials), but was equally intriguing, was NSF's involvement in the sustainability movement, particularly sustainable agriculture. NSF has an organic certification program, as well as a program for third-party testing of gluten-free products. In fact, the nonprofit has an on-site organic garden, from which they donate produce to local charities and food banks. This is important not only in its immediate benefits to the community, but also in that it sets a fine example for other corporations. The movement for urban, local, and sustainably produced food is gaining traction, as reported in the June issue of Groundcover.

Another study conducted by NSF that was not part of the tour sought to examine the prevalence of germs in the home. The results were interesting. The bacteria group being tested for, coliform, includes *E.coli* and was found on 75 percent of dish sponges, 45 percent of kitchen sinks, 32 percent of counter tops, and 18 percent of cutting boards. The study also looked at the germiest places in the home. Most were rather obvious candidates – dish rags and kitchen sinks, for instance – but there were some surprises, like stove knobs, which came in at number nine, ahead of cutting boards.

NSF's world headquarters, located on Dixboro Road at the east edge of town, are unassuming from the outside, sporting the typical corporate fountain and plush lawn. The tour, however, revealed a bustling consumer advocacy group, replete with pipe-exploding laser technology.



Bob Frayer, Director of NSF International's Engineering Laboratories, explains how they test plumbing equipment to find out the pressure it will safely withstand before bursting.

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<http://peoplesfood.coop>

Offer expires 01/31/2012

Camp Take Notice eviction

continued from page 4

the camp was cited by the Rev. Curt DeMars-Johnson of Webster United Church of Christ as a reason he became involved. He saw the camp’s weekly meetings, in which campers make decisions through a one-person, one-vote system, as “manifesting the best practice of democracy.”

Being noticed

Camp Take Notice started living up to its name in October of 2011, when filmmaker Tavis Smiley and Princeton professor Cornel West filmed footage of Camp Take Notice as part of their five-part PBS special, “The Poverty Tour: A Call to Conscience.” Members of MISSION and other camp supporters believe that this publicity may be why MDOT, which until then had been tolerant of the camp’s presence so long as they were actively seeking other locations, began making inquiries into the growing size of the camp. In response to one of these inquiries, MISSION’s board, with camper input, wrote a letter stating the camp’s intent to remain at that site permanently. Some MISSION members believe that it was this letter that prompted MDOT officials to begin making plans to evict the camp. A formal eviction notice was served on May 29, stating that it would be illegal to be on the property after 12 a.m. on Friday, June 22.

A representative of MSHDA, which responded to inquiries made to the MDOT office, said that “safety issues” and concerns of “surrounding neighbors” played a part in the eviction decision. A press release by MSHDA also cites public safety and health

concerns as reasons for the eviction.

Representatives of the ACLU declined to comment at the all-camp meeting, saying that they were still discussing options. However, during the meeting one representative explained that their case for reversing the eviction decision, if a case were to be made, would rest on those people who were involuntarily homeless and did not have a place to go after the eviction – thus making potential arrests tantamount to criminalization of status. However, the ACLU was struggling to find suitable candidates for plaintiffs.

Community responses

In the last few weeks before the eviction, sections of the community came out in force to express their support for CTN and the campers, and to demand that attention be paid to the issue of homelessness. On June 14, members of at least 30 faith-based organizations came together at St. Mary’s Student Parish in downtown Ann Arbor for an interfaith prayer vigil. One of those presiding was Rev. Ian Cross of Holy Faith Church in Saline, who later declared his intention to be arrested on the eviction day, “because I think that homelessness is being criminalized and swept under the rug. It needs to be visible, seen, dealt with.”

Other community members at the event expressed support for CTN’s presence. “We would all want this camp to be closed – the right way,” said Daniel Fernandes, an employee at GM and part-time student at UM. He had joined other attendees of the prayer



Caleb Poirer, CTN founder and homeless activist, briefs community members on MDOT’s plan to evict campers. Large numbers of the area faith-community came out strongly in support of the camp.

vigil in procession from the church to Liberty Plaza. Looking around at the assembly, he observed that community support had grown considerably over the past year.

Some individuals and organizations see this as an opportunity to find better long-term solutions to homelessness in Washtenaw County. Chuck Warpehoski, director of the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and 2012 Ann Arbor City Council hopeful, would like the attention focused on CTN to be shifted to “the deeper problem of the lack of adequate, affordable, and supportive housing.”

The Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA), made up of several organizations in the county who share the goal of ending homelessness in the region, has been working with MSHDA and state agencies to provide housing to the evicted campers. In a statement made in response to the CTN situation, WHA executive director Julie Steiner said, “We work together to ensure that residents at CTN have access to physical and mental health services, substance abuse treatment, employment support, shelter and, ultimately, housing.”

Beyond eviction day

Demonstrations in support of CTN’s plight continued in the camp’s final days, with significant attendance and media coverage. Though the eviction was scheduled for June 22, the date was extended thanks to conversations between MISSION and Mark Sweeney, regional manager for MDOT. The camp was given the weekend to finish moving campers to new sites and to hold a community cleanup effort, which would include volunteers from churches.

Brian Durrance of MISSION expressed gratitude to Sweeney and MDOT for this extension and for allowing them to stay on the land for two years. He also spoke of the way in which CTN had educated people on the depth of the problem of homelessness in the area. “Lawmakers were unaware that there was such a need,” said Durrance.

Moving forward, MISSION members still have been hoping to influence Governor Rick Snyder, the only elected official with the power to reverse MDOT’s decision, and are continuing discussions with all levels of government. Also, according to Durrance, MISSION has been in contact with local churches and lawyers, looking at the possibility of improving the current site or purchasing new land for a permanent Camp Take Notice.

Perhaps most significantly, supporters of CTN saw the public outpouring of support and the willingness of decision makers to discuss options as a victory for the plight of the homeless. As Peggy Lynch, a MISSION member and CTN camper who walked into the prayer vigil event and saw the large crowd gathered, declared: “We have already won.” No matter what ultimately becomes of the site and MISSION’s vision, one thing is sure: this camp was noticed.

Supporters of CTN and the cause they represent encourage the public to continue voicing concern over the eviction to MDOT official Kirk Steudle (517) 373-0718, and Governor Snyder (517) 373-3400.

Voter registration for housing-insecure

by Greg Hoffman

Contrary to popular opinion, an individual is not required to have permanent housing to be eligible to vote in the State of Michigan. Michigan election law states that a *residence* “for registration and voting purposes means that place at which a person habitually sleeps, keeps his or her personal effects, and has a regular place of lodging.” This definition is intentionally vague to accommodate all types of living situations. Shelter or transitional housing residents may use the address of the organization where they regularly sleep. Those individuals who may not have stable housing, and may have used street intersections or city landmarks on their registration forms, are loosely referred to as “nontraditional addressees” by voter registration administrators.

In order to vote in the 2012 General Elections, individuals must register 30 days prior to the election in which they wish to vote. Individuals may register to vote in person at any Secretary of State Office, the City or Township Clerk’s Office, the Washtenaw County Clerk’s Office, or any Michigan Works! service center.

It is also possible to register by mail; forms can be obtained at public library branches around Washtenaw County, as well as at any of the locations listed above. Registrants mail completed forms to the appropriate office according to the instructions on the forms. If registering by mail, a voter is required to vote in person the first time in order to confirm his or her identity.

The **last day to register** for the **Michigan Primary** is **July 9, 2012**. The Primary Election is on Tuesday, August 7, 2012. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. During the Primary Election, voters decide which candidates will be on the November General Election Ballot, choosing between multiple candidates from the same parties.

The **last day to register** for the **Michigan General Election** is **October 9, 2012**. The General Election is on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. The Michigan General Election includes voting for U.S. President, one Michigan Seat for the U.S. Senate, 14 Michigan seats for Representatives to the U.S. Congress, elections for the Michigan State Senate and State House of Representatives, and various local elections depending on where the voter is registered.

Important Addresses:

Ann Arbor City Clerk: 301 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Dexter City Clerk: 8123 Main Street, Dexter, MI 48130
Pittsfield Township Clerk: 6201 Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Saline Township Clerk: 100 North Harris Street, Saline, MI 48176
Washtenaw County Clerk: 200 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104;
or 4133 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Washtenaw County Secretary of State Offices:
Ann Arbor – 295 North Maple Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Belleville – 795 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111
Chelsea – 1113 South Main Street, Chelsea, MI 48118
Ypsilanti – 2720 Washtenaw Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Ypsilanti City Clerk: 1 South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Ypsilanti Township Clerk: 7200 South Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti Township, MI 48197

Cryptoquote Solution

“Freedom without opportunity is a devil’s gift, and the refusal to provide such opportunities is criminal.”

– Noam Chomsky

Fudgy Brownies

by Corliss Irrer

These intensely chocolaty brownies are a wonderful first baking project (no mixer needed) and an easy way for an experienced baker to get that chocolate fix we all crave sometimes.

Ingredients:

- 5 ounces unsweetened chocolate, chopped into small pieces
- 13 1/2 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Very lightly butter a 13x9x2-inch baking pan (I like glass). Too much butter in your pan will make greasy brownies. The correct pan size is essential because the wrong size will produce dry or liquid brownies instead of fudgy ones!

Put a heatproof bowl (preferably glass) over a saucepan of simmering water. The

water should not be touching the bowl. Cut the butter into small pieces and place in the bowl. Add chocolate pieces. Stir occasionally and remove the bowl from the pan as soon as the ingredients are just melted. Wipe water from bowl bottom. If your bowl is big enough to hold the rest of the ingredients, continue to use the same bowl. Otherwise, pour the mix into a bigger bowl and stir the sugar in. You can use a whisk, spatula, or spoon. The mixture will be and should be grainy after stirring the sugar in.

Stir the eggs in one at a time, mixing well after each. Add the vanilla and stir vigorously. Your batter will be beautifully glossy at this point and maybe still somewhat grainy.

Whisk or sift dry ingredients together in a separate bowl. Gently add the flour mixture into the liquid, stirring only until just incorporated. If you are using nuts, gently fold them in, preferably with a spatula. The batter will be quite thick. Spread into your prepared pan and bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for approximately 30 minutes. Watch carefully! The top of the brownies should look dry all over and the sides should look like they are about ready to pull away, but not actually doing so. Cool and enjoy!

Ivers & Rickelmann, CPAs, PLLC
2929 Plymouth Road, Suite 350
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

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Fax (734) 994-0165

Thanks to GroundCover News for spreading the word and providing an outlet where there was none. We are proud to support your mission and good work!

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Ann Arbor's Inner Peace Festival: love in the city



by **Andrea Dillion**
Groundcover
Contributor

On Sunday, June 24th, Ann Arbor saw and celebrated the Second Annual Inner Peace Festival in downtown Ann Arbor on Main Street. It was a monumental event to celebrate and support the fostering of inner peace among the diversity of people in our city. The festivities included live music, local food vendors, yoga, guided meditations along with several "peace partners" booths that showcased local spiritual groups, peace groups, and peace-conscious vendors.

Over five hundred people attended the festival. The organizers of the festival, Center of Light Ann Arbor, said the event was a big success.

The purpose of the event was to pull together different spiritual groups in the area and bring to the people the different options of spirituality, so people who are seeking a spiritual path know what offerings are available. The Center of Light is a spiritual school that teaches and practices Christian Mysticism. Spiritual partners at the festivals included the Hare Krishnas, practicing the Hindu inner spiritual path; the Isha Foundation, practicing an inclusive

spiritual yogic practice; and the Inter-faith Center of Ann Arbor that practices teachings from many paths.

The variety of the expressions of love and devotion to God was beautiful to watch and take in. Participants were also led through guided meditations in the beautiful Moroccan meditation tent and received spiritual blessings in the blessing tent. The energy of peace and love was palpable in the city block, and many festival goers were attracted by that peace and hung out for the greater part of the day.

There were also signs encouraging prayers for peace and changes in various aspects of government, education, homelessness, and finance for the city. By the end of the day, many attendees of this beautiful event had a distinct glow of deeper peace, love and acceptance. Hope to see you there next year!

For more information on the peace festival, visit www.innerpeacefestival.com/ann-arbor. For more information on the Center of Light, visit www.centersoflight.org.



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